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LETTER DATED 7 OCTOBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF EGYPT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have pleasure in transmitting herewith the statement of 7 October 1993 from the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the situation in Somalia.

I should be grateful if you would have the statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nabil ELARABY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Statement of 7 October 1993 from the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the situation in Somalia

Egypt has followed with concern the recent events in Somalia, which resulted in the death of Somali civilians and members of the United Nations forces, over which Egypt expresses its deep regret. It believes that these events are indicative of the disintegrating situation in Somalia and the collapse of the Somali State, and calls for the exertion of all possible efforts to enable the Somali people and the international community to work towards the reconstruction of Somalia.

While the humanitarian aspect of the problem may now be diminishing as a result of the efforts of the international community, the Somali people faces the strenuous task of reconstructing its country, the primary endeavour being the process of national reconciliation.

The major policy goals of Africa, including Egypt, with regard to Somalia, are to bring peace to the various parts of that country and to achieve national reconciliation between the various peace-loving groups in Somalia which uphold Somali interests and the unity of the Somali State.

In this connection, Egypt urges all parties in Somalia to adopt a positive stand permitting implementation of the decisions of the Conference on National Reconciliation, held in February in Addis Ababa, where the different Somali factions agreed on just and effective principles guaranteeing the fresh reconstruction of the Somali State.

At the same time, cooperation with the United Nations forces and an end to the clash between them and certain Somali factions are regarded as a prerequisite, particularly since the Somali people as a whole gains nothing from it; on the contrary, the clash merely exacerbates the difficulties confronting the people.

It is essential to observe compatibility between the interests of the Somali people and the international legitimacy; specific factional objectives have no role to play. National reconciliation remains the only means of transition from the first phase, that of averting the collapse facing Somalia, to the phase of reconstruction.

Egypt stands prepared to use its diplomacy to contribute, together with its brothers in the Organization of African Unity and in the African continent in general, to assisting its brother Somali people to surmount the current delicate stage in the hope of a better and more stable future for Somalia.